

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01

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P R 131735Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1058

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL ZURICH

AMEMBASSY BERN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, GW

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - BERLIN ROUTE PROPOSALS

REF: (A) STATE 49169, (B) 36

1. EMBASSY CAA CONVEYED US POSITION ON OPERATIONS OF TRIPARTITE AIRLINES BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND NON-FRG POINTS, AS WELL AS APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF PROPOSED BRITISH AIRWAYS ZURICH SERVICE TO BRITISH CAA (GROVES) ON MARCH 13. FRENCH CAA WAS ALSO INFORMED.
2. THE EMBASSY WOULD AGREE THAT BA'S DESIRE FOR A PRECIPITATE PRESS RELEASE WAS UNUSUAL, AND THAT WE CANNOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME MANEUVER VIS-A-VIS THE SWISS ON THE PART OF THE BRITISH. NEVERTHELESS, GROVES WAS NOT ONLY FORTHCOMING, BUT EMPHATIC IN ASSURING THE EMBASSY THAT THE UK UP TO THE PRESENT HAS HAD

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NO, RPT NO CONTACTS WITH THE SWISS ON THE PROPOSED

ZURICH SERVICE. MOREOVER, HE SAID THE UK CONSIDERED THAT IT HAD AN OBLIGATION TO CONSULT ITS ALLIES AND OBTAIN APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FOR THE BA SERVICE BEFORE OPENING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SWISS. (EMBASSY NOTES THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE UK VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE UK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AT THE TIME OF PAN AM'S APPLICATION FOR AN AMSTERDAM SERVICE LAST YEAR.) EMBASSY ASSUMES THE BRITISH WILL NOW, HOWEVER, APPROACH THE SWISS SOON ON THE BA PROPOSAL.

3. GROVES FOLLOWED UP HIS ORAL PRESENTATION ON MARCH 7 OF THE BA PROPOSAL (REFTEL B) WITH A LETTER OF CONFIRMATION. ONE POINT STRESSED MORE EXPLICITLY IN THE LETTER THAN IN HIS REMARKS ON MARCH 7 IS THE STATEMENT: "APPROVAL FOR THE PROPOSED SERVICE WOULD BE AN EQUITABLE EXCHANGE FOR THE BERLIN/AMSTERDAM SERVICE CURRENTLY OPERATED BY PAN AMERICAN." POSSIBLY THE BRITISH WILL PURSUE THE IDEA OF SHARING TRIPARTITE CARRIER ROUTES BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND POINTS OUTSIDE THE FRG.

4. WITH RESPECT TO SURFACING THE PAN AM VIENNA SERVICE PROPOSAL, EMBASSY AGREED WITH THE DEPARTMENT THAT THIS WAS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM THE ALLIES AND THE FRG, AND DID SO ON MARCH 13. BRITISH CAA AND THE FONOFF BCATAG REPRESENTATIVE (JIRKA) SAID THEY WOULD INFORM THEIR GOVERNMENTS, BUT HAD NO COMMENTS FOR THE PRESENT. FRENCH CAA (DE BOISSIEU) SAID HE WOULD INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT, AND SURMISED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION, JUST AS THEY HAVE SO FAR HAVE HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED SERVICES TO AMSTERDAM, COPENHAGEN AND ZURICH. DE BOISSIEU ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS GOVERNMENT TOOK ISSUE WITH THE US GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF SUPPORTING ALL REASONABLE EFFORTS OF TRIPARTITE AIRLINES TO OPERATE BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND NON-FRG POINTS. HE DID NOT PROPOSE TO ELABORATE AT THIS TIME, HE SAID, BUT WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A CAA MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK TO PRESENT FRENCH VIEWS. HILLENBRAND

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